

Application Number: 10/060,620

Docket Number: 10012155-1

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for parameter authentication, comprising:
discovering an existence of each one of a plurality of authentication agents in a computer system upon each startup of the computer system, wherein a total number of the authentication agents existing in the computer system is unknown upon startup of the computer system;

concurrently executing all of the a plurality of authentication agents discovered in the a computer system, each of the authentication agents being configured to initiate the performance of at least one authentication task to authenticate an unauthenticated user parameter for one of a plurality of functions, each of the functions corresponding to one of the authentication agents;

examining, for each respective one of the authentication agents, an authenticated parameter table to determine whether an unauthenticated user parameter is listed therein before each respective one of the authentication agents is employed to initiate performance of the at least one authentication task; and

bypassing, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the initiation of the performance of the authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter if the unauthenticated user parameter is listed in the authenticated parameter table.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising obtaining the unauthenticated user parameter from a user by way of a user interface.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising erasing the authenticated parameter table ~~upon a successful authentication of a predefined number of unauthenticated user parameters.~~

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4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the performance of the at least one authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter if the unauthenticated user parameter is not listed in the authenticated parameter table.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of obtaining the user parameter from a user by way of a user interface further comprises obtaining at least one user parameter from the group consisting of a biometric parameter, a password, a username, a code, a key, and a signature.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising storing the authenticated user parameter in the authenticated parameter table upon a successful authentication thereof.

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7. (Currently Amended) A system for parameter authentication, comprising:
a processor circuit with a processor and a memory;
an authenticated parameter table stored in the memory;
authentication logic stored in the memory and executable by the processor, the authentication logic comprising:
- a plurality of authentication agents, each of the authentication agents being configured to initiate the performance of at least one authentication task to authenticate an unauthenticated user parameter for one of a plurality of functions, each of the functions corresponding to one of the authentication agents;
 - logic that discovers an existence of each one of the authentication agents in the memory upon an initial execution of the authentication logic, wherein a total number of the authentication agents existing in the memory is unknown upon the initial execution of the authentication logic;
 - logic that concurrently executes all of the authentication agents discovered upon the initial execution of the authentication logic;
 - logic that examines, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the authenticated parameter table to determine whether an unauthenticated user parameter is listed therein before each respective one of the authentication agents is employed to initiate performance of the at least one authentication task; and
 - logic that bypasses, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the initiation of the performance of the authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter if the unauthenticated user parameter is listed in the authenticated parameter table.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the authentication logic further comprises logic that obtains the unauthenticated user parameter from a user by way of a user interface.

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9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the authentication logic further comprises logic that erases the authenticated user parameters ~~listed in the authenticated parameter table upon a successful authentication of a predefined number of unauthenticated user parameters.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the authentication logic further comprises logic that initiates for each respective one of the authentication agents, the performance of the at least one authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter if the unauthenticated user parameter is not listed in the authenticated parameter table.

11. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the authentication logic further comprises logic that stores the authenticated user parameter in the authenticated parameter table upon a successful authentication thereof.

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12. (Currently Amended) A program embodied in a computer readable medium for parameter authentication, comprising:

code that generates an authenticated parameter table;

code that embodies a plurality of authentication agents, each of the authentication agents being configured to initiate the performance of at least one authentication task to authenticate an unauthenticated user parameter for one of a plurality of functions, each of the functions corresponding to one of the authentication agents;

code that discovers an existence of each one of the authentication agents in a memory upon an initial execution of the program, wherein a total number of the authentication agents existing in the memory is unknown upon the initial execution of the program;

code that concurrently executes all of the authentication agents discovered upon the initial execution of the program;

code that examines, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the authenticated parameter table to determine whether an unauthenticated user parameter is listed therein before each respective one of the authentication agents is employed to initiate performance of the at least one authentication table; and

code that bypasses, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the initiation of the performance of the authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter if the unauthenticated user parameter is listed in the authenticated parameter table.

13. (Original) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 12, further comprising code that obtains the unauthenticated user parameter from a user by way of a user interface.

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14. (Currently Amended) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 12, further comprises code that erases the authenticated user parameters listed in the authenticated parameter table ~~upon a successful authentication of a predefined number of unauthenticated user parameters.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 12, further comprises code that initiates, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the performance of the at least one authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter if the unauthenticated user parameter is not listed in the authenticated parameter table.

16. (Previously Presented) The program embodied in a computer readable medium of claim 15, further comprises code that stores the authenticated user parameter in the authenticated parameter table upon a successful authentication thereof.

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17. (Currently Amended) A system for parameter authentication, comprising:
an authenticated parameter table;
means for discovering an existence of each one of a plurality of the authentication agents in a memory upon an initial execution of the system, wherein a total number of the authentication agents existing in the memory is unknown upon the initial execution of the system, wherein the authentication agents discovered are implemented concurrently, a plurality of authentication agents, each of the authentication agents being configured to initiate the performance of at least one authentication task to authenticate an unauthenticated user parameter for one of a plurality of functions, each of the functions corresponding to one of the authentication agents;
means for examining the authenticated parameter table for each of the authentication agents to determine whether an unauthenticated user parameter is listed therein before each respective authentication agent is employed to initiate performance of the at least one authentication task; and
means for bypassing the initiation of the performance of the authentication task for each of the authentication agents to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter if the unauthenticated user parameter is listed in the authenticated parameter table.

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18. (Currently Amended) A method for parameter authentication, comprising:
discovering an existence of each one of a plurality of authentication agents in a computer system upon each startup of the computer system, wherein a total number of the authentication agents existing in the computer system is unknown upon startup of the computer system;

obtaining an unauthenticated user parameter from a user by way of a user interface;

~~executing all of the a plurality of authentication agents concurrently in the~~
~~a computer system, each of the authentication agents being configured to initiate the performance of at least one authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter for one of a plurality of functions, each of the functions corresponding to one of the authentication agents;~~

examining an authenticated parameter table for each respective one of the authentication agents to determine whether the unauthenticated user parameter is listed therein before each respective one of the authentication agents is employed to initiate performance of the at least one authentication task;

bypassing the initiation of the performance of the authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter for each respective one of the authentication agents if the unauthenticated user parameter is listed in the authenticated parameter table;

initiating the performance of the authentication task to authenticate
~~authentication of the unauthenticated user parameter with the~~ for each respective one of the authentication agents if the unauthenticated user parameter is not listed in the authenticated parameter table; and

storing the authenticated user parameter in the authenticated parameter table upon a successful authentication thereof.

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19. (Currently Amended) A program embodied in a computer readable medium for parameter authentication, comprising:

- an authenticated parameter table;
- code that obtains an unauthenticated user parameter from a user by way of a user interface;
- code that embodies a plurality of authentication agents, each of the authentication agents being configured to initiate the performance of at least one authentication task to authenticate an unauthenticated user parameter for one of a plurality of functions, each of the functions corresponding to one of the authentication agents;
- code that discovers an existence of each one of the authentication agents in a memory upon an initial execution of the program, wherein a total number of the authentication agents existing in the memory is unknown upon the initial execution of the program;
- code that concurrently executes all of the authentication agents discovered upon the initial execution of the program;
- code that examines, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the authenticated parameter table to determine whether an unauthenticated user parameter is listed therein before each respective one of the authentication agents is employed to initiate performance of the at least one authentication table;
- code that bypasses, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the initiation of the performance of the authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter if the unauthenticated user parameter is listed in the authenticated parameter table;
- code that initiates, for each respective one of the authentication agents, the performance of the authentication task to authenticate the unauthenticated user parameter if the unauthenticated user parameter is not listed in the authenticated parameter table; and
- code that stores the authenticated user parameter in an authenticated parameter table upon a successful authentication thereof.